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FROM: Joy Ann G Serauskas Direct Phone: (312) 984-7658

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Sent By: Laura A. Plecki Direct Phone: 312-984-6887

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Re: U.S. Application No. 10/712,121 (Continuation of 10/154,244)

MESSAGE:

CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT REQUESTED

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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission (1 p.); and
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CHI99 4229220-1.052743.0012

PAGE 1/8 * RCVD AT 1/8/2004 12:14:19 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFAXF-1/2 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:312 984 7700 * DURATION (mm-ss):02:38

In re Appln. of Burgess
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/712,121
"Deck Mounting Bracket"
Our Ref. No. 52743-012004

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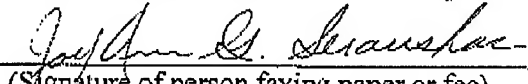
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Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 20231, at Facsimile Number (703) 872-9306,
Attn: Examiner Amy J. Sterling, on the date indicated.

Joy Ann G. Serauskas

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Docket No. 52743-012004

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application No.:)
10/712,121 (Continuation of 10/154,244))

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

Filed: November 13, 2003)

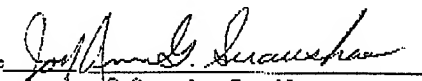
FOR: DECK MOUNTING BRACKET)

Examiner: not yet assigned)

Art Unit: not yet assigned)

I hereby certify that this CORRESPONDENCE (along with any documents referred to as attached or enclosed) is being transmitted by facsimile to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Examiner Amy J. Sterling, to Facsimile Number (703) 872-9306, on January 8, 2004.

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Joy Ann G. Serauskas, Reg. No. 27,952

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 20231

Dear Sir:

The above-identified application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 10/154,244, filed May 23, 2002. The above-identified application was filed on November 13, 2003.

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.